

FROM SIENA TO ROME

she wrote to a certain Giovanni da Parma in Rome, whose conscience was disturbed by some unnamed book that he had been studying : God has given us a book, His Word, the Son of God, which was written on the Cross, not with ink but with blood, a book that the most unlettered and dull of apprehension can read ; " and I am certain that, if you will read in this sweet book, your book, by which you seem to be so harassed, will not give you any trouble."¹ To Tora di Messer Piero Gambacorti, afterwards known in the history of the Dominican order as the Beata Chiara, who, after much opposition from her father, had just, by the intervention of Alfonso da Vadaterra, been allowed to take the veil, Catherine wrote, on October 26, warning her that the Divine Bridegroom whom she had chosen is very jealous, and urging her as soon as possible to become His true servant and bride.²

At last the summons came from Urban, who realized to the full what a weapon the venerated maiden of Siena would be in his hands, to come to Rome. Raimondo tells us that she at first pleaded that her constant journeys scandalized many in Siena, and some of her own sisters in religion ; she required an express order from the Pope, that it might be quite clear that she was acting under holy obedience.³ " By the great goodness of God, and by the command of the Holy Father," she wrote, on November 4, to the tailor Francesco, " I believe that I am going to Rome about the middle of this month, more or less, as shall please God, and we shall go by land ; so I tell you this as I promised you. Pray God to make us fulfil His will. I pray you, Francesco, for the love of Christ crucified, to take the trouble of delivering the letters which I am sending you with this, quickly for the honour of God and to please me. Go to Monna Pavola and tell her, if she has not had what she wanted from court, to write to me, and I will do for her as for my

¹ Letter 309 (299).

² Letter 262 (322) ; the date (with some additional matter) is in the MS. xxxviii. 130 of the Bibl. Nazionale di Firenze. 8 *Legenda*, III. i. 3 (§333)-